

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00924 110430Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00
AGR-05 ABF-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 110400Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8217
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL UDORN
CINCPAC

CONFIDENTIAL VIENTIANE 0924

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM SREF PINS SOCI LA
SUBJECT: SEMINAR INSTRUCTION NOTES CURRENT PROBLEMS

REF: VIENTIANE 0900

1. AT A GOVERNMENT ORGANIZED "SEMINAR" JUNE 8 FOR
RESIDENTS OF SISATANAK, ONE OF VIENTIANE'S FOUR
QUARTERS, LOCAL AUTHORITIES REPORTEDLY NOTED NUMEROUS
PROBLEMS FACING THE LPDR, HIGHLIGHTING SPECIFICALLY:
A) INCREASING NUMBERS OF REFUGEES ("REACTIONARY
TRAITORS") ARE FLEEING TO THAILAND. IN MAY, 120 RESI-
DENTS OF SISATANAK LEFT THEIR HOMES FOR THAILAND. AN
ADDITIONAL NUMBER TRIED TO LEAVE BUT WERE APPREHENDED.
(SISATANAK HAS A POPULATION OF APPROXIMATELY 16,000,
ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT FIGURES.)
B) "REACTIONARIES" CONTINUE TO HARASS THE LPDR

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AUTHORITIES. AT THE END OF MAY "PATRIOTIC FORCES"
ENGAGED "LAO REACTIONARIES" AT NAM KIENG, 19 KILO-
METERS NORTH NORTHWEST OF VIENTIANE, RESULTING IN
CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES.

C) THE "REVOLUTION" IS REPORTEDLY BECOMING "SOILED" BY
CRIMINALS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS THEREFORE INSTITUTED A
NEW CODE WHEREBY THE FOLLOWING PUNISHMENTS WILL BE

METED OUT FOR SPECIFIC CRIMES: THOSE GUILTY OF THEFTS
OVER 100,000 KIP (APPROXIMATELY \$63.00 ON THE FREE
MARKET) WILL BE EXECUTED. PETTY THIEVES (THEFT UP TO
15,000 KIP) AND PROSTITUTES WILL BE WARNED AT THE
FIRST OFFENSE AND PUT TO HARD LABOR FOR FROM FIFTEEN
TO THIRTY DAYS AT THE SECOND OFFENSE.

2. QUARTER AUTHORITIES REPORTEDLY BLAMED THE REFUGEE
EXODUS, "REACTIONARY" RESISTANCE AND RISING CRIME RATE
ON INCREASINGLY EFFECTIVE "REACTIONARY" PROPAGANDA.

3. COMMENT: IN VIENTIANE THE FLOW OF FOREIGN
CURRENCY INTO THE LOCAL ECONOMY FROM THE DIPLOMATIC
COMMUNITY IS SIGNIFICANT AND COMMUNIST SOCIAL
ORGANIZATION ADVANCED. IN ADDITION, GOODS AND SER-
VICES PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT ARE MORE READILY
AVAILABLE THAN IN OTHER PARTS OF LAOS. NEVERTHELESS,
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DECAY CONTINUE AS RESIDENTS, AWARE
OF THE REDUCED STANDARD OF LIVING AND RESTRICTED FREE-
DOM USHERED IN BY THE "REVOLUTION", REMAIN DIS-
ILLUSIONED AND RESENTFUL.

MCWILLIAMS

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Message Attributes

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